

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ), the RFQ being generated by a processor at a requester computing system and including job information for a requested job indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services from a supplier-to-the-requester, the method comprising:

providing supplier-registration information from the requester computing system to a registration component;

downloading an RFQ generation engine to the requester computing system;

after the RFQ generation engine is downloaded to the requester computing system,
displaying a predetermined RFQ template having a plurality of displayed fields and
using the RFQ generation engine at the requester computing system to enter the job information into the plurality of displayed fieldsa predetermined RFQ template, the RFQ template having a plurality of displayed fields comprising:

a category field receiving an indication of a category for the requested job,

a job description field receiving a description for the requested job,

an award criteria field receiving an indication indicative of criteria considered in awarding the requested job to a supplier,

a date of delivery field receiving a delivery date for the requested job, and

an expiration date field receiving indicative of an expiration date for the RFQ;

using the processor to save the RFQ template including the entered job information at-a predetermined location in a data store local to a computer system at the requester computing system; and

using the processor to send indexing information related to the RFQ template to an index remote from the computer system of the requester computing system;

receiving, at the requester computing system, one or more replies to the RFQ template from one or more suppliers; and

automatically evaluating, at the requester computing system, the one or more received

replies based on the award criteria in the RFQ template saved in the local data store, and identifying a supplier based on the evaluation.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ), the RFQ being generated by a processor at a requester computing system and including job information for a requested job indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services from a supplier-to-the-requester, the method comprising:

displaying a predetermined RFQ template including a plurality of displayed fields for receiving job information;

entering the job information into a predetermined RFQ template, wherein the job information is entered into the plurality of displayed fields of the RFQ template, wherein the job information is entered using the requester computer system by the requester and comprises:

filter criteria indicative of suppliers authorized to reply to the RFQ template, an expiration date of the RFQ, a category and description of the requested job, and an award criteria;

using the processor to save the RFQ template including the entered job information in a data store local to the requester computer system; and

using the processor to send indexing information related to the RFQ template to an index remote from the requester computer system of the requester;

receiving, at the requester computer system, one or more replies to the RFQ template from one or more suppliers; and

evaluating, at the requester computer system, the one or more received replies based on the award criteria in the RFQ template saved in the local data store.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 13 wherein sending indexing information comprises:

 sending requester filter criteria indicative of suppliers authorized to reply to the RFQ template.

15. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 11 and further comprising:
 receiving a reply to the RFQ template from a supplier.

16. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 15 wherein entering the job information comprises:

 entering award criteria indicative of criteria considered in awarding a job corresponding to the RFQ to a supplier.

17. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 16 and further comprising:
 evaluating the received reply based on the award criteria; and
 suggesting a winning supplier based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

18. (Original) The computer implemented method of claim 17 wherein evaluating comprises:
 weighting the award criteria according to a predetermined weight.

19-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method that employs a processor, the method comprising:

 registering with a request for supplier quotation [[an]] (RFQ) index builder;
 receiving an RFQ template at a supplier computing system describing a requested job from the RFQ index builder, the RFQ template being generated by a manufacturer and including a plurality of fields displayed at the supplier computing system, the plurality of displayed fields comprising:
 a category and description field of the requested job,

an award criteria field for the requested job, the award criteria field identifying one or more of the plurality of fields in the RFQ template and being indicative of a manner in which criteria entered into the one or more fields will be considered by a manufacturer in awarding the requested job to a supplier.

a date of delivery field, and

an expiration date field of the RFQ;

using an RFQ reply engine at the supplier computing system to generate a reply to the RFQ template by providing information requested in the RFQ template; and transmitting the reply from the supplier computing system to a manufacturer computer system that generated the RFQ template.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further including filter criteria accessible by the suppliers to identify RFQs for reply.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a geographic location for the service provider.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for specifying quality standards.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for quantity of goods.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ) indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services by a supplier-to-a-manufacturer, the method comprising:

providing an RFQ template using an RFQ generation engine at a manufacturer computing system, the RFQ template having a plurality of displayed job information fields for receiving job information pertaining to a requested job, the plurality of fields including:

a job category field,
a job description field,
a delivery date field,
a location field,
a supplier pre-designation field, and
an award criteria field;

receiving, in the RFQ template, job information pertaining to a requested job;

receiving manufacturer filter criteria into the supplier pre-designation field indicative of particular suppliers that are authorized to reply to the RFQ template;

receiving award criteria into the award criteria field indicative of criteria considered by the manufacturer in awarding the requested job to a supplier;

saving the RFQ template including the job information and the award criteria in a data store local to the manufacturer computing system;

sending indexing information for the RFQ template;

receiving, at the manufacturer computer system, one or more replies to the RFQ template from one or more suppliers; and

evaluating the one or more received replies based on the award criteria in the RFQ template saved in the local data store.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45, wherein the plurality of fields in the RFQ template further comprises an RFQ expiration date field.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45, and further comprising:

sending manufacturer registration information from the manufacturer computing system to a registration component; and

downloading the RFQ generation engine to the manufacturer computing system, wherein the RFQ generation engine sends the index information to a remote index component over a network.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45, the category including a code.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 45, the RFQ template further including a quantity of goods.

51. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 45, the RFQ template further comprising a field for specifying quality standards.

52. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 45, wherein the award criteria received into the award criteria field identifies one or more of the plurality of fields in the RFQ template.

52. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 45, and further comprising:

receiving, at the manufacturer computing system, one or more replies to the RFQ template from one or more suppliers; and

automatically evaluating, at the manufacturer computing system, the one or more received replies based on the award criteria in the RFQ template and identifying a supplier based on the evaluation.

53. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein the indication of criteria received in the award criteria field identifies one or more of the plurality of fields in the RFQ template and being indicative of a manner in which criteria entered into the one or more fields will be considered by a manufacturer in awarding the requested job to a supplier.